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| 10/762,497 | 01/23/2004 | Nobuhiro Miyakawa | Q79568 | 5233 |

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| BRASE, SANDRA L | |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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| 2852 | |

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| | 10/762,497 | MIYAKAWA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Sandra L. Brase | 2852 |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/04.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Double Patenting*

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington,* 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claim 1 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 contains all of the limitations of claim 1 of the current application even though claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 contains further limitations.

3. Claims 1; 4; 8; and 9 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3; 17; 16; and 15, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 3; 17; 16; and 15, respectively, of U.S. Patent No.

6,819,899 disclose the features of claims 1; 4; 8; and 9, respectively, except having a plurality of developing devices of different colors. It is considered to be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed plurality of developing devices of different colors, since it is well known in the art to have such a plurality of developing devices so as to form full color images.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Nakamura et al. (US 5,753,396).

5. Claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 disclose all of the limitations contained in claim 2 of the current application except that the image-forming apparatus is a cleaner-less apparatus. Nakamura et al. (...396) disclose an image forming apparatus that is s cleaner-less apparatus in which toner residues remaining untransferred on the latent image holding member are recovered in a development part (abstract; col. 3, lines 36-38; col. 5, lines 52-55; col. 21, lines 47-53; and col. 49, lines 56-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the image forming apparatus to be cleaner-less, as disclosed by Nakamura et al. (...396), so that residual toner can be reused, and a separate additional cleaning step is not required.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Nakamura et al. (US 5,753,396).

7. Claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 disclose all of the limitations contained in claim 5 of the current application except the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member. Tamaoki et al. (...973) disclose an image forming apparatus having a maximum coating weight to a recorded material of 0.2-0.5 mg/cm$^2$ ([0050]-[0054]), where the maximum coating weight to the recorded material is determined by the maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support an imprint effectiveness when using a middle imprint object (intermediate transfer medium) and an imprint effectiveness to a recorded material ([0054]). Thus the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member (maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support), would be very close to the maximum coating weight to the recorded material, and as such would fall somewhere in the claimed range of 0.5 mg/cm$^2$ or less. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member in the claimed range, as disclosed by Tamaoki et al. (...973) since such an amount provides a image that is easily fixed.

8. Claim 6 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Nakamura et al. (US 5,753,396).

9. Claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 discloses all of the limitations contained in claim 6 of the current application except the claimed transfer power sources. Tokimatsu et al. (...692) disclose a constant-voltage power source for supplying a transfer voltage to perform a toner image transfer onto an intermediate transfer medium and a constant-current power source serving

as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed respective transfer power sources, as disclosed by Tokimatsu et al. (...692) so as to excellently perform the transfer of a toner image.

10. Claims 11 and 21; 19; 20; and 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 3; 16; 15; and 22, respectively of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692) and Hara (JP 2001-166605).

11. Claims 3; 16; 15; and 22, respectively of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 disclose the features of claims 11 and 21; 19; 20; and 22, respectively, except having a plurality of developing devices of different colors, the respective transfer power sources and the intermediate transfer medium containing an ion-conductive substance. It is considered to be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed plurality of developing devices of different colors, since it is well known in the art to have such a plurality of developing devices so as to form full color images. Tokimatsu et al. (...692) disclose a constant-voltage power source for supplying a transfer voltage to perform a toner image transfer onto an intermediate transfer medium and a constant-current power source serving as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed respective transfer power sources, as disclosed by Tokimatsu et al. (...692) so as to excellently perform the transfer of a toner image. Hara (...605) discloses an intermediate

transfer medium including an ion-conductive material (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the intermediate transfer medium contain an ion-conductive material, as disclosed by Hara (...605), since such an intermediate transfer medium has improved uniformity of electric resistance, free of dependence on electric fields, and less changed in electric resistance by environment.

12. Claims 11 and 21 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692) and Hara (JP 2001-166605).

13. Claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 discloses the features of claims 11 and 21, except the respective transfer power sources and the intermediate transfer medium containing an ion-conductive substance. Tokimatsu et al. (...692) disclose a constant-voltage power source for supplying a transfer voltage to perform a toner image transfer onto an intermediate transfer medium and a constant-current power source serving as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed respective transfer power sources, as disclosed by Tokimatsu et al. (...692) so as to excellently perform the transfer of a toner image. Hara (...605) discloses an intermediate transfer medium including an ion-conductive material (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the intermediate transfer medium contain an ion-conductive material, as disclosed by Hara (...605), since such an

intermediate transfer medium has improved uniformity of electric resistance, free of dependence on electric fields, and less changed in electric resistance by environment.

14. Claims 11 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 3 of copending Application No. 10/751306 in view of Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1) and Hara (JP 2001-166605).

15. Claim 3 of copending Application No. 10/751/306 disclose all of the limitation of claims 11 and 12 of the current application except that the intermediate transfer medium contains an ion-conductive substance and has a work function smaller than the work function of each of the toners. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) disclose the intermediate transfer medium has a work function smaller than the work function of the toners (abstract; and [0095]-[0098]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the intermediate transfer medium to have a work function smaller than the work function of each of the toners, as disclosed by Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1), so that transfer efficiency can be improved. Hara (...605) discloses an intermediate transfer medium including an ion-conductive material (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the intermediate transfer medium contain an ion-conductive material, as disclosed by Hara (...605), since such an intermediate transfer medium has improved uniformity of electric resistance, free of dependence on electric fields, and less changed in electric resistance by environment.

16. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

17. Claim 17 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692), Hara (JP 2001-166605) and Tamaoki et al. (JP 2002-131973).

18. Claim 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,899 in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692) and Hara (JP 2001-166605) disclose the features mentioned previously, but do not disclose the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member. Tamaoki et al. (...973) disclose an image forming apparatus having a maximum coating weight to a recorded material of 0.2-0.5 $mg/cm^2$ ([0050]-[0054]), where the maximum coating weight to the recorded material is determined by the maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support an imprint effectiveness when using a middle imprint object (intermediate transfer medium) and an imprint effectiveness to a recorded material ([0054]). Thus the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member (maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support), would be very close to the maximum coating weight to the recorded material, and as such would fall somewhere in the claimed range of 0.5 $mg/cm^2$ or less. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member in the claimed range, as disclosed by Tamaoki et al. (...973) since such an amount provides a image that is easily fixed.

### *Specification*

19. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

20. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### *Claim Objections*

21. Claims 13 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities. Appropriate correction is required.

In claim 13, line 4, "lager" should be changed to "larger".

In claim 18, lines 5-7, the direction defined is unclear, where these lines could be changed to "the direction of movement of the latent image holding member is the same as that of the developing device at an area where the latent image holding member is closest to the developing device", since this corresponds the respective directions as shown in figures 2 and 3 of the current application. Applicant is to note that, as shown in figures 2 and 3, the latent image holding member rotates in a clockwise direction, and the developing device rotates in a counterclockwise direction.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

22. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

23. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1).

24. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) disclose an image-forming apparatus comprising: a latent image holding member (1 or 140 or 40) on which an electrostatic latent image is to be formed; developing devices (10, 10Y, 10C, 10M and 10K) having toners of different colors for developing the electrostatic latent image on the latent image holding member to form a toner image; and an intermediate transfer member (5 or 36) onto which the thus formed toner image is to be transferred, wherein the intermediate transfer medium has a work function smaller than the work function of the toners (abstract; and [0095]-[0098]). The toners are each a nonmagnetic one-component toner ([0058] and [0082]). The toners are negative electrification type toners ([0008]-[0009]) and the developing devices are devices for reversal development ([0082]). The toners contain hydrophobic silica (silicon dioxide) particles and hydrophobic titanium dioxide as flowability improvers ([0077]-[0078]). The toner particles have a roundness (circularity) of 0.91 or more ([0018], [0072] and [0076]). The toners have a number-average particle diameter of 4-10 μm ([0017] and [0075]). The toners are formed by polymerizing a monomer in the presence of a colorant ([0065]-[0068]).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

25. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

26. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

27. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1) in view of Nakamura et al. (US 5,753,396).

28. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) disclose the features mentioned previously, but do not disclose the image-forming apparatus is a cleaner-less apparatus. Nakamura et al. (...396) disclose an image forming apparatus that is s cleaner-less apparatus in which toner residues remaining untransferred on the latent image holding member are recovered in a development part (abstract; col. 3, lines 36-38; col. 5, lines 52-55; col. 21, lines 47-53; and col. 49, lines 56-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the

image forming apparatus to be cleaner-less, as disclosed by Nakamura et al. (...396), so that residual toner can be reused, and a separate additional cleaning step is not required.

29. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1) in view of Tamaoki et al. (JP 2002-131973).

30. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) disclose the features mentioned previously, but do not disclose the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member. Tamaoki et al. (...973) disclose an image forming apparatus having a maximum coating weight to a recorded material of 0.2-0.5 $mg/cm^2$ ([0050]-[0054]), where the maximum coating weight to the recorded material is determined by the maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support an imprint effectiveness when using a middle imprint object (intermediate transfer medium) and an imprint effectiveness to a recorded material ([0054]). Thus the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member (maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support), would be very close to the maximum coating weight to the recorded material, and as such would fall somewhere in the claimed range of 0.5 $mg/cm^2$ or less. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member in the claimed range, as disclosed by Tamaoki et al. (...973) since such an amount provides a image that is easily fixed.

31. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1) in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692).

32. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) disclose the features mentioned previously, but do not disclose the claimed transfer power sources. Tokimatsu et al. (...692) disclose a constant-voltage power source for supplying a transfer voltage to perform a toner image transfer onto an intermediate transfer medium and a constant-current power source serving as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed respective transfer power sources, as disclosed by Tokimatsu et al. (...692) so as to excellently perform the transfer of a toner image.

33. Claims 11, 13-16 and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1) in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692) and Hara (JP 2001-166605).

34. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) disclose an image-forming apparatus comprising: a latent image holding member (1 or 140 or 40) on which an electrostatic latent image is to be formed; developing devices (10, 10Y, 10C, 10M and 10K) having toners of different colors for developing the electrostatic latent image on the latent image holding member to form a toner image; and an intermediate transfer medium (5 or 36) onto which the thus formed toner image is to be transferred, where the intermediate transfer medium has a work function smaller than the work function of each of the toners (abstract; and [0095]-[0098]). The toners have a work function of 5.4 – 5.9 eV ([0014] and [0095]). The intermediate transfer medium is a belt and the toner images transferred to the intermediate transfer medium are then transferred to paper ([0117]). The toners are each nonmagnetic one-component toner ([0058]). The amount of each

toner conveyed by each developing device is 0.5 mg/cm$^2$ ([0084]). The developing device is operated at a higher peripheral speed than the latent image holding member to have a peripheral speed ratio of the former to the latter of from 1.2 – 2.5 ([0020] and [0085]), and the direction of movement of the latent image holding member is the same as that of the developing device at an area where the latent image holding member is closest to the developing device (figures 1 and 2). The toners contain hydrophobic silica (silicon dioxide) particles and hydrophobic titanium dioxide as flowability improvers ([0077]-[0078]). The toner particles have a roundness (circularity) of 0.91 or more ([0018], [0072] and [0076]). The toners have a number-average particle diameter of 4-10 μm ([0017] and [0075]). Each of the respective colors has been united with the corresponding latent image holding member to constitute a process cartridge, and the process cartridge has been removably mounted in the image-forming apparatus ([0121]). Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) do not disclose the claimed transfer power sources and the intermediate transfer medium containing an ion-conductive substance. Tokimatsu et al. (...692) disclose a constant-voltage power source for supplying a transfer voltage to perform a toner image transfer onto an intermediate transfer medium and a constant-current power source serving as a power source for a second transfer of the toner image from the intermediate transfer medium to a recording medium (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the claimed respective transfer power sources, as disclosed by Tokimatsu et al. (...692) so as to excellently perform the transfer of a toner image. Hara (...605) discloses an intermediate transfer medium including an ion-conductive material (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the intermediate transfer medium contain an ion-conductive material, as

disclosed by Hara (...605), since such an intermediate transfer medium has improved uniformity of electric resistance, free of dependence on electric fields, and less changed in electric resistance by environment.

35. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyakawa et al. (EP 1271251 A1) in view of Tokimatsu et al. (JP 11-231692) and Hara (JP 2001-166605) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Tamaoki et al. (JP 2002-131973).

36. Miyakawa et al. (...251 A1) in view of Tokimatsu et al. (...692) and Hara (...605) disclose the features mentioned previously, but do not disclose the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member. Tamaoki et al. (...973) disclose an image forming apparatus having a maximum coating weight to a recorded material of 0.2-0.5 $mg/cm^2$ ([0050]-[0054]), where the maximum coating weight to the recorded material is determined by the maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support an imprint effectiveness when using a middle imprint object (intermediate transfer medium) and an imprint effectiveness to a recorded material ([0054]). Thus the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member (maximum coating weight that may adhere to the latent image support), would be very close to the maximum coating weight to the recorded material, and as such would fall somewhere in the claimed range of 0.5 $mg/cm^2$ or less. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the amount deposited for development on the latent image holding member in the claimed range, as disclosed by Tamaoki et al. (...973) since such an amount provides a image that is easily fixed.

37. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Miyakawa et al. (US 2004/0265714) is the U.S. publication of U.S. Application 10/751,306. (See double patenting rejection above).

***Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra L. Brase whose telephone number is 571-272-2131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur T. Grimley, can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sandra L. Brase
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

December 5, 2005